Friday, December 19, 2008 • Vol. 24 / No. 11 website: www.inquirer.net

2 dead as Iligan stores are bombed ACROSS THE NATION / A17

Teacher kills son, then hangs self in QC hotel METRO / A25

Survival 101 for SMEs in 2009 BUSINESS / B2-1

Subic trees will be cut, after all NEWS / A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



THE PHILIPPINES' PRIDE. Lea Salonga, plays the heroine in "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" at its gala premiere in Bangkok. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

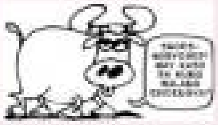
Lea topbills Cinderella musical in Bangkok

By Noel Adlai O. Velasco

BANGKOK—FOR PROTEST-WEARY Bangkokians, the staging here of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella," topbilled by world-renowned and multi-awarded Filipino artist Lea Salonga, offers a brief respite from the political turbulence dividing the nation.

On Tuesday night, everything seemed to have been forgotten as they watched the stirring performance of the Tony

LEA/A11



World's most famous pair of shoes destroyed

BAGHDAD—THEY SPURRED JOKES about US President George W. Bush, inspired an Internet game, and even moved an Egyptian man to offer his daughter in marriage.

But the world's most famous pair of black dress shoes—thrown by Iraqi jour-

WORLD/A9

'Betrayal of farmers' cause'

Outrage follows Congress move to water down CARP

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio

IT WAS DENOUNCED AS NOTHING MORE THAN a "betrayal" of a 20-year promise to free farmers from bondage to the soil.

Expressions of outrage followed the swift approval by Congress on Wednesday of a joint resolution extending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) for another six months but calling for a moratorium on compulsory land acquisition.

"This is a betrayal of the farmers' cause in the guise of serving their interest," said Christian Monsod, former chair of the Commission on Elections and counsel for the farmers' group Task Force Mapalad.

Agrarian reform, Monsod stressed, is the "social justice mandate" of the Constitution. "To do away with the compulsory acquisition and distribution is to change the intent and letter of the Constitution," he said.

"It's not only unconstitutional of the not complying with the compulsory distribution of land as mandated by the Constitution, it's also illegal. It's null and void," said Arlene Bag-ao, a lawyer for landless farmers.

BETRAYAL/A10



WITH A MEAL of rice porridge, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo and farmers end their hunger strike for the passage of the CARP extension law with reforms. It was Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales who called for an end to the hunger strike, promising that he would take up the cause with lawmakers.

Oil drops below $40; Opec cuts production

By Abigail L. Ho

A SMALL OIL FIRM IN THE country has slashed the price of kerosene by P7.60 a liter and autoLPG by P1 a liter, but consumers say the reductions are not enough amid slumping world crude prices that hit below $40 a barrel yesterday despite Opec's record output cut.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines' price adjustment took effect at 2:01 p.m. yesterday. Total (Philippines) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. earlier cut autoLPG prices by P1 a liter.

OPEC/DROPS/A10

Cardinal likens Con-ass proponents to rapists

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO Cardinal Rosales has expressed what may yet be his sharpest rebuke of administration lawmakers pushing a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"It's like corrupting your teenage daughter in the case of a rapist," Rosales told reporters. "I'm sorry for the analogy, but you get the idea."

The cardinal said it would not be prudent to allow certain members of the House of Repre-

CARDINAL/A8

Clean up Manila Bay, SC tells gov't

By Norman Bordadora

NOTHING LESS THAN THE REvival of Manila Bay in all its glory and splendor will appease the Supreme Court.

In an en banc unanimous decision, the high tribunal yesterday directed the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and six other government agencies to undertake a coordinated cleanup, restoration and preservation of the bay.

"To most of these agencies and their official complement, the pollution menace does not seem to carry the high national priority it deserves, if their track records are to be the norm," said the 38-page decision penned by Justice Presbitero Velasco.

"Their cavalier attitude toward solving, if not mitigating, the environmental pollu-

CLEAN UP/A2

US firm in Baguio lays off 400

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE MISFORtune of Filipino workers employed by American firms losing their jobs has spread from Cebu to this city, the country's summer capital.

LAYOFF/A22



MAMA MIA!
Dionisia Pacquiao, mother of who else but, trips the light fantastic at her son's birthday bash on Wednesday night in General Santos City. (Story on Page A8.)

Bolante runner yields, set to testify

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE WOMAN SAID TO BE THE runner of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam is now in Senate custody and ready to testify.

As she had promised Sen. Richard Gordon on Wednesday night, Marites Aytona "surrendered" before noon yesterday. She turned up at an event the senator was attending at Hotel Sofitel, which is quite near the Senate building in Pasay City.

Gordon, who chairs the blue ribbon committee investigating the fund scam, was prompted to announce that its sixth hearing would be held on Monday, and not on Jan. 20 as he had scheduled.

"I told the members of the committee that we have to call a hearing because there is a civil liberty element involved here. We do not want to keep her long in our custody, unless she asks for protective custody," he told reporters.

Gordon escorted Aytona to the Senate at 2:15 p.m. She is said to be suffering from high blood pressure, and she went straight to the clinic to be checked by Senate doctors.

He said Aytona would stay in an undisclosed location for security reasons.

Asked whether he believed

BOLANTE/A11



NO-SHOW Marites Aytona finally shows up.

Second FrontPage

SIX DIGIT

5 3 5 6 8 5

SUERTRES

0 0 0

9 2 2

2 0 6

EZ2

13 18 20 21

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

1 7 24 40 41 46

P16,000,000.00

Subic trees will be cut, after all

Most of them are diseased, says survey team hired by Korean firm

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—TREES WILL HAVE TO be cut after all.





CHEAPER DRUGS

Gov't to import rice next month


DINOS ALIVE!
A roaring experience of a lifetime!
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR Special
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY
Block 5, SM Mall Of Asia, Manila
Nov. 28 - Jan. 11, 2009
12.00pm - 10.00pm (weekdays)
10.00pm - 10.00pm (weekends & Public Holidays)
SPECIAL OFFER PRICES
Adults Php 400
Children Php 350
Family Package Php 1,400
12,000 sqm Dino Show
31 Robotic Dinosaurs
A 3,000 sqm food court and shopping area
3D Kodak Photo Session Area
Free On-site activities and games
Terms and conditions apply
* Senior Citizens get 20% discount on adult prices
www.dinosalivetour.com
In partnership with
Sponsors
MAX
BDO


JOB Market
Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés?
We can help you.


FLATTEN YOUR FLABBY TUMMY IN JUST 2 MONTHS!
Have a flatter, sexier tummy and be noticeably slim and svelte with this special offer from Marie France!
Get 5 FREE FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM TREATMENTS upon enrollment from Dec. 15-20, 2008
Developed in Switzerland and exclusive to Marie France, the Fat Mobilization System is scientifically proven to accelerate the body's natural biochemical process for effective fat elimination.
Don't miss this chance to have a slimmer, sexier tummy shape! Call Marie France now!
Call 894-BODY (2639)
marie france

Rice subsidy program hurting poor, says study

Twice as high

Drain on gov't coffers

Important safety net

AFP



DFA lauds UN Security Council action vs piracy

By Cynthia D. Balana

Fight against piracy

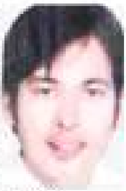
State of anarchy

Crime against humanity



The Daily Gospel

Ousted solon to appeal poll court's verdict



FERNANDEZ





Many residences

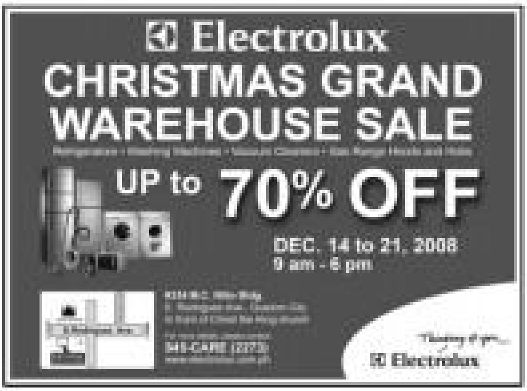
'Well researched decision'

Cua, party-list solon, dies; 55



CUA





No child warriors, Moro rebels pledge; UN elated

By Cynthia D. Balana

Priority

'Gift of light' for GK villages



OFWs distrust Owwa, but survey result is disputed

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

STEALING THE SHOW

Pacman's ma whoops it up



DANCING WITH NANAY



CENTENNIAL FIREWORKS
[illegible]

'Betrayal of farmers' cause'





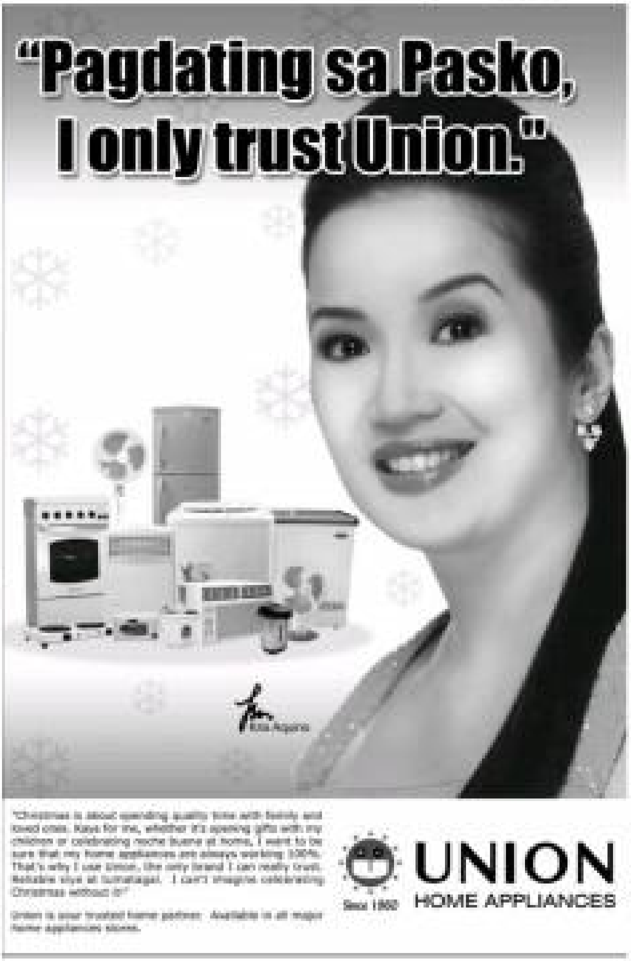
Cardinal likens Con-ass proponents to rapists

Oil drops below $40; Opec cuts production



No surgery this year for jailed militant farmer

Drug trade funding rebs, says PNP chief



A GRAND FINALE

Hyundai Dealers end 2008 with the radiance of victory







The Best in Parts Operations

The Best in Service and Sales













Before the Dealer of the Year Award was given to the rightful winner, the 2008 Dealer Excellence Awards were given out to the Rookie of the Year and the Top 5 dealers vying for the pivot award. Hyundai Global City achieved the highest rating among the rookies in the HARI Metro Manila dealer network, earning for it the title of Rookie of the Year in terms of Dealer Excellence, while Hyundai Alabang, Hyundai Pasig, Hyundai E. Rodriguez, Hyundai Cebu, and Hyundai Cagayan de Oro completed the Top 5 roundup of Dealer Excellence awardees.

Hyundai Cebu: Still the undisputed Dealer of the Year

With its triumph in overall dealership operations, it was clear that evening of the 2008 Dealer of the Year Awards that Hyundai Cebu still has the upper hand and remains the undisputed Dealer of the Year. This 2008, Hyundai Cebu not only duplicated its victory, but again made history in HARI's books as it is now the first provincial dealer to ever win the coveted Dealer of the Year Award for two consecutive years. As he delivered his victory address to the 200-plus attendees of one of the year's most momentous events for HARI, Mr. Edward Ongtako, President of Hyundai Cebu, expressed his overwhelming gratitude to HARI for its confidence and trust in the dealership in forwarding Hyundai's signature quality and premium value to Filipino motorists. Mr. Ongtako concluded his speech by reaffirming his dealership's commitment to continue building Hyundai's refined and confident global brand image in the market.

Though feelings of apprehension on the state of the global economy inevitably lingered, the glow of optimism radiated from the camaraderie and team spirit of HARI and all its 33 dealers, showing once more that even in the darkest of times, the promise of victory shines—and the spirit of Christmas will always have a place in everyone's hearts.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Death by postponement

EDITORIAL

SO THIS IS HOW TO KILL THE LANDMARK AGRARIAN reform law: granting it yet another six-month extension. The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, due to expire on Dec. 31, was given a new but temporary lease on life when the Senate and the House of Representatives approved on the last session day of the year separate resolutions extending the program to June 30, 2009. By expressly excluding the compulsory acquisition of lands, however, the resolutions render CARP alive but crippled.

Malacañang welcomed the last-minute reprieve. "We believe it is an adequate and realistic compromise solution for the time being, given the proximity of the CARP term's expiration," said Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio. The ever-pragmatic Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile described the resolutions as "an expedient measure to address the immediately expiring law so that we will have that window of six months to restudy the program."

But a key advocate of CARP's extension, who refused to vote for the final version of the House resolution, described the compromise solution in funereal terms. It was "a killing" and "a burial," Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said. By approving an extension that excludes compulsory land acquisition, Lagman said, Congress "dismembers the heart and soul" of land reform.

Even a senator who voted for the resolution, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said he had sought a much longer extension period but "reluctantly voted in favor of the measure because the alternative is that there will be no extension at the end of December."

But how did both chambers reach this pass, when the 20-year-old law was already extended for six months last June? Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, on the third day of a farmers' hunger strike, dismissed the claim that legislators would use the new six-month extension to study the law even more closely. That was the reason given for the first six-month extension, he said. "What did they do during that time? We doubt if they will study it [now]. It seems as if the farmers' cause is not in the lawmakers' hearts."

Can anyone blame him, or the farmers he had joined, for thinking that way? Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, otherwise a staunch oppositionist, offered a peek into the congressmen's thinking. He said most of them believed that compulsory land acquisition had been tried in the past 20 years, but proved to be a "clear failure."

In fact, agrarian reform in general or compulsory acquisition in particular cannot be said to be clear failures. The only thing clear is that, ever since the social justice law made it through Congress two decades ago, the landed and the powerful have tried again and again to slow the progress of reform, if not stop it altogether.

The highest-profile land reform case of the last two years, that of the Sumilao farmers, has been successfully, happily, concluded, but we must not forget that their travails over the years testify to the difficulty of effecting the transfer of reformed lands.

The legislative maneuver that allows CARP a six-month stay is part of that same sorry history, where the legal process is abused by the landed and the powerful to prevent the lawful transfer of reformed land.

Lagman drew the picture with great accuracy. "What are we extending? We are supposed to extend the only component that is about to expire—land acquisition and distribution, both voluntary and compulsory. [But in] this resolution, the sale and distribution of land is now left to the sole discretion of the landlord. There will not anymore cover lands where there is resistance from landowners or no coverage from the Department of Agrarian Reform."

Without compulsory acquisition, "landowners will not volunteer to sell their lands or enter into any voluntary land transfer arrangement with their tenants," he added.

That is the long and short of it. Unfortunately, despite the bland, pragmatic talk from both the Palace and the leaders of Congress, it is the country's many farmers who got the short end of the murderous stick.

Publisher Isagani Yambot
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
[illegible]



Big RP firms pirating computer software

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from last Wednesday, Dec. 17)

WHEN ADMINISTRATOR ARMANDO ARREZA of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) [illegible]

[illegible]

The most pirated software applications are MS Office, MS Windows, AutoCAD, and Adobe.

The F word, PI and the profanity-in-chief

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

[illegible]

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A dangerous illusion

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Child-friendly schools

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Financing the Revolution

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Giving

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Disturbing survey findings

LETTERS

Will next leader be better than GMA?

Inquirer belongs to poor Filipinos

So 'young' trees elsewhere in the Philippines may be cut?

Vendetta-laced reports on Nueva Vizcaya gov't

'Quantum of solace' sought by motorist

There's enough dough for ads, not for refunds

Across the NATION

2 Iligan dep't stores bombed; 2 dead

ILIGAN CITY—A DAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo, two bombs went off in two department stores here, leaving two persons dead and at least 27 others wounded.

[illegible]



Temperature drop brings frost to parts of Benguet

[illegible]

Below 10

[illegible]

Frost has arrived

[illegible]

Vulnerable crops

[illegible]

Leyte capitol workers to get ₱10,000 in extra bonuses



Moro rebel leaders got food aid, says AFP



Unavoidable

European aid

NEWSBRIEFS

Trader shot dead

Biogas kills 4

Fisherman rescued



Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

Let Us Not Allow Selfish Interest to Undermine Democracy

"As an instrument of the State, public administration at any level – national, regional, community – is oriented towards the service of citizens"
(Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, # 412)

We, the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, are strongly opposed to the recent move of the members of the House of Representatives to railroad constitutional reform through Constituent Assembly. If one were to sincerely analyze the social condition of the country and consider the common good, all signs point out that Charter Change (Chacha) at this point is premature and untimely.

First, there is the global financial crisis and the intensifying poverty. Against the backdrops of a yawning budget deficit, a lethargic economy and the collapsing international finances, Chacha will further deplete government resources. Costing millions of pesos, financing Chacha will inevitably require the utilization of scarce government funds otherwise intended for social services. Let us be reminded that the people, especially the poor, continue to suffer from poverty and social exclusion and that Chacha will not guarantee the reversal of their condition.

Second, Chacha distracts the attention of the people and government officials from collectively addressing the real problem – corruption. The successive controversies on NBN-ZTE deal, fertilizer scam, and others are the real obstacles to progress and not the protectionist policies of our present Constitution, as Chacha advocates would have us believe.

Third, Chacha is not the panacea to our problems. On the contrary, the drafting of a new Constitution may fall prey to the machinations of the few who stand to profit from a liberalized economy and possibly an extended term of service. Filipinos deserve a better kind of leaders than what we have now. The 2010 election will allow us to perform a very serious and civic moral duty to vote into office the people who will lead us in our continuing quest for a mature, responsive and morally transformed society.

Finally, for Charter Change to proceed disregarding democratic and participatory procedures is an affront to prudence and undermines democracy. If we allow Congress to convert itself into a Constituent Assembly, we essentially relinquish the remaining power that we have as a people over our Constitution. There are complex issues that need to be considered and extensively deliberated upon in amending the Charter. People's participation in this exercise is a pre-requisite that must be satisfied. This is a new expression of people power.

To quote our "2006 Pastoral Exhortation on Charter Change": *"While we agree that certain aspects of our Constitution may need amendments and revisions, we do not support hasty efforts to change this fundamental law of the land without the widespread discussion and participation that such changes require. We continue to believe as we did in our statement on Charter Change in 2003, that changing the Constitution involving major shifts in the form of government, requires widespread participation, total transparency, and relative serenity that allows for rational discussion and debate. This is best done through a Constitutional Convention."*

We pray that all of us, religious, civic and political leaders, and families, who share the task of building this nation, be guided by God's loving light. We fervently pray especially for our government officials to forgo their plans of amending the Constitution until a new set of leaders will have been elected in the 2010 Presidential Election. When the time does come, let it be done through **Constitutional Convention** where ***"different subjects of civil community at every level will be informed, listened to, and involved in the exercise of the carried-out functions."*** *(Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, # 190)*

For the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines,

+ ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO, DD
Archbishop of Jaro
CBCP President

With the concurrence of the CBCP Permanent Council.

Church says war on Reds taking toll on priests

Pledges given to build homes in landslide site

Search for RP Eagle to continue in Samar, Leyte

Bolante runner yields, set to testify



Painted gun

Tightening noose

Surrender feelers

Paulo's runner

US firm in Baguio lays off 400

IN THE KNOW

Pioneer in RP

Clean up Manila Bay, SC tells gov't



Not yet too late

Prescription for revival


Metrobank
ABENSON
Wish & Win
RAFFLE PROMO
Over 100 Samsung LCD TV
wishes to be granted!
Over 1 MILLION IN PRIZES to be given away!
SONY
SONY KV-BZ21M50
21" Flat TV
AV-stereo
SONY DSC-S730
7.2 Megapixels
SAMSUNG
LA22A450
22" LCD TV
P18,900
Cash Buyers only!
SHARP
0%
LC-19A35M
19" LCD TV
P19,998
Panasonic
0%
TX-32LE8
32" LCD TV
P44,900
SANYO
0%
32CA85
32" LCD TV
P34,995
0%
PhotoFrame Gallery 15
P8,995
Portable DVD Player
P14,995
P19,995
Gallery 35i
P3,495

Lea topbills Cinderella musical in Bangkok



THE CAST of Cinderella, led by the Philippines' Lea Salonga, takes a bow after the gala premiere of the musical in Bangkok Tuesday.

Standing ovation

Lea fans

Fit for a star

Language barrier

Kim, Eponine, Mulan, etc.



SHOE FEVER IN MANILA Members of Migrante mark the 18th International Migrants Day by hurling shoes at an image of President Macapagal-Arroyo on a pillar outside the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Iraqi 'shoeman' says sorry

World's most famous pair of shoes destroyed

Butt of jokes

New son-in-law

Chaos in parliament

Complex legal process

No more drama

News



TESTING FOR VIRUS A government medical technologist conducts free HIV screening test on blood samples from clients at the social hygiene clinic in Manila. AFP

Victims say AIDS a 'hidden, growing' threat

"I CAME OUT TO SHOW PEOPLE we are normal," says AIDS worker Roberto Ruiz, who is fighting the social stigma that HIV/AIDS still carries in the Philippines.

While the government puts the number of HIV/AIDS cases at 8,000, Ruiz believes the number is much higher.

"The true number is probably fast approaching 30,000," said Ruiz, who sits on the board of trustees of Positive Action Foundation Philippines Inc.

He said local and foreign health experts used to say the Philippines is "low and slow in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS". "Now, they have changed it to 'hidden and growing,'" said Ruiz, 44, who was diagnosed with AIDS in 1991.

While the foundation acts as a support group for HIV/AIDS sufferers in the Philippines it also conducts research and has an education program aimed at lifting the stigma associated with the disease in a country where more than 80 percent of the 90 million population are Roman Catholic.

Thriving sex trade

United Nations data, based on government figures, show that last year there were 8,000 people suffering from HIV/AIDS in the Philippines despite the country's thriving sex industry and vast army of some eight million overseas workers.

In Thailand the figure is 610,000, in Vietnam 290,000 and Cambodia 75,000.

Soe Nyunt-u, the World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in the Philippines, said the number of HIV/AIDS cases being reported each month, at 40-45, is nearly double this year compared to last year.

In October, there were 59 new cases detected, he told AFP.

He said the number of cases detected annually has also spiked to 454 in the first 10 months of this year, from 309 in 2006 and 342 last year.

Tip of the iceberg

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

"The real number could be much higher than this," Nyunt-u said, adding that many cases still go unreported.

"What is alarming is that infections are now being found outside of the traditional high-risk groups: sex workers, drug users, men who have sex with men, and Filipinos returning from working overseas," Ruiz said.

Transmission among sex workers and other risk groups is going down "but it is in the general population that it is increasing," he said, citing the disease particularly among the young.

So far, health officials have found 461 people aged 15-24 who were infected, with 32 children below the age of 15 also infected. The children were all born of mothers with the disease, said Ruiz.

Greater focus

"There really needs to be a greater government focus on education and prevention programs before it explodes," Ruiz said adding the programs should not be confined to schools but feature in the workplace as well.

"The Department of Education has not done any firm HIV/AIDS program yet, maybe because in the past there were no students and very few young people being diagnosed," Ruiz said.

Had HIV/AIDS education been carried out in high school, then perhaps many of the young people now infected would have avoided the disease, he said.

Effective program

Ironically, the Philippines is credited with carrying out effective HIV/AIDS programs among marginalized groups.

"There is a fairly established, organized civil society with many nongovernment organizations who work with the Department of Health to reach these marginalized groups," particularly sex workers, said Massimo Ghidinelli, a special WHO adviser on HIV/AIDS.

There are some obstacles: the Catholic Church has opposed sex education among children and the promotion of condoms—two things that would help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This makes it unlikely that the Philippines will adopt the massive HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns that were so effective in Thailand, Ghidinelli said.

"Each country has its own cultural set-up. It doesn't mean there can't be proper intervention," he said. AFP

Aplus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

Did you know

GEN. ANTONIO LUNA received his doctorate in pharmacy from the Universidad Central de Madrid in 1890. Upon his return to Manila, he was commissioned by the Spanish government to make bacteriological studies of contagious diseases in the Philippines. Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Teacher kills son, then hangs self in QC hotel

By Nancy Carvajal

A 32-YEAR-OLD TEACHER FROM Bago City killed her 3-year-old son by poisoning and then hanged herself inside a hotel in Quezon City, the city's homicide police chief reported yesterday.

Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo said that based on the suicide note left by Cheryl Robles-Canas, she decided to kill her son, Stylle, and took her own life due to depression, when she learned that her husband was involved with another woman.

Pedrozo said the suicide note was found on the desk near the hotel bed.

Police also said that the note indicated that they just recently arrived in Manila to supposedly spend Christmas as a family.

Pedrozo said the victims' husband also refused to take down and informed her of the other woman.

The letter also said the husband refused his wife's plea to let her and their son to stay in his house here, Pedrozo said.

The bodies of Canas and her son, police said, were discovered by the hotel staff at around 12:45 in the afternoon on Wednesday.

"The hotel staff decided to open the victims' door when no one answered their repeated knocks," he said.

He added that based on the investigation, the victims just arrived from the province and checked into Sogo Hotel in Novaliches on Tuesday morning.

He further said, the child was found lying on the bed with his mouth frothing.

The initial report of the Scene of the Crime Operatives said "the boy could be poisoned or had been given a drug overdose."

The mother was found hanging in the comfort room with a nylon rope looped around her neck and with the other end tied to the shower.



Busted water pipe fixed; east Metro areas to get supply

By Beverly T. Natividad



FIRE ACROSS THE RIVER

Health agency launches cheap medicines

Says the generic drugs are sold to indigents in public hospitals at P100/box

By Julie M. Aurelio

METROBRIEFS

Wrath of vendors

Found dead

Fetched, then killed

Earning extra

Hobbit House



GIFTS FOR SIA SCHOLARS

Teenager killed, another hurt in dawn Mass violent incidents

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Beverly T. Natividad

Cops raid blood bank

By Jeannette I. Andrade

Cancer patient seeks financial aid for surgery

PWD listup in QC eyed

By Julie M. Aurelio



SOLAR-POWERED CHRISTMAS TREE

QC street renamed GMA Drive

The WORLD

Editor [illegible]

35 Iraq officials arrested over coup plot

BAGHDAD—UP TO 35 OFFICIALS IN THE IRAQI Ministry of the Interior ranking as high as general have been arrested over the past three days with some of them accused of quietly working to reconstitute Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, according to senior security officials in Baghdad.

[illegible]



BRITAIN'S Prime Minister Gordon Brown [illegible] in southern Iraq during [illegible] Dec. 17. Brown [illegible]

[illegible]

AFP

China to send warships to fight Somali pirates

BEIJING—CHINA IS PREPARING to send warships to fight [illegible]

[illegible]

AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Rwanda's Bagosora draws life for genocide

[illegible]

Reuters

LatAm summit: New independence, anti-embargo

[illegible]

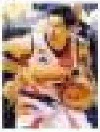
AP

Protesters urge China province to stop eating cats

[illegible]




SMART
Buddy
Mas Makulay ang Pasko ko D2!
Camera na, may video recording pa! Ang dali pang i-share ang pictures dahil P1.00* lang mag-MMS!
Nokia 1680
SMART BUDDY'S MOST AFFORDABLE CAMERA PHONE
P2,690
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SMART BUDDY EXCLUSIVE
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To activate your phone's MMS, text SET MMS to 211 for FREE.
Click talaga ako sa Smart Buddy. Me na Me talaga!
www.smart.com.ph/buddy



SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



Ever Bilena extends reign

Sweeps Smart cagebelles for WPBL title

By Cedelf P. Tupas

[illegible]

Rare grand slam

[illegible]

Maroons hold scoreless

[illegible]

Pacquiao or Mayweather? Hatton weighs fight options / A30 and A32

Hatton a tough customer for Pacman


PACQUIAO

Sports glossary for ... whatever

ONE GAME AT A TIME



Magnolia downs BK five

Wizards two wins away from outright PBL semis berth



SPORTSWATCH

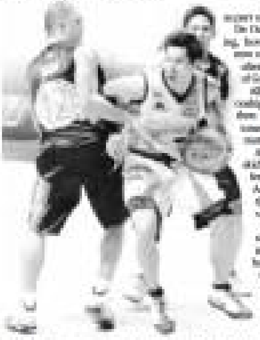
MCC chess tomorrow

MIDLANDS MATCH PLAY

La Salle-Ateneo duel unfolds

Zoleta stars as St. Benilde tops netfest

Aces gun for semis anew tonight





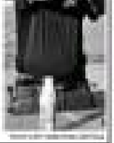
Shakey's girls' volley: UST spikers off to rousing start



Chiefs show Arellano strength

Inquirer golfers sweep PSA golf

RPOC XI chairman announces 1st Shootfest



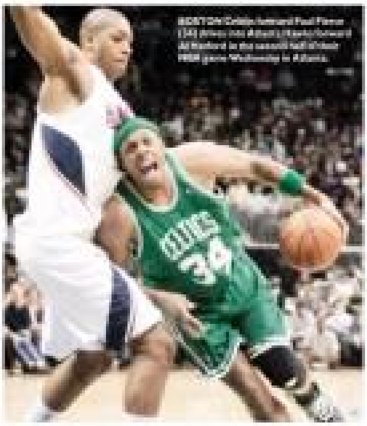
SPORTS

Hatton ponders M'weather rematch



HATTON

Celtics hang on for 16th straight win



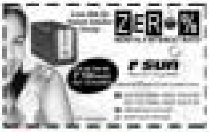
Hornets 98, Spurs 83

Jazz 103, Nets 92

Cavaliers 93, Timberwolves 78

Tiger keeping controversial Kiwi bagtoter

Uefa Cup: Milan held to draw; Hamburg on top



BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



With inflation seen to ease, BSP cuts key rates

50-bps cut meant to ensure credit availability

By Doris C. Dumlao

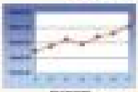
THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS YESTERday slashed its key interest rates by half a percentage point—double the rate cut expected by the



TETANGCO

WITH INFLATION B4

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

46.75

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES B2

Peso gains further on US Fed's near-zero rate policy

PESO B3

IN THIS ISSUE

Finally, a done deal

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Sold by February

25 off at 25th

Fear of squatters

Proposed tax on sugar opposed

Grave threat to concerned industries, says BIAP



EDC to build 20-MW geothermal plant



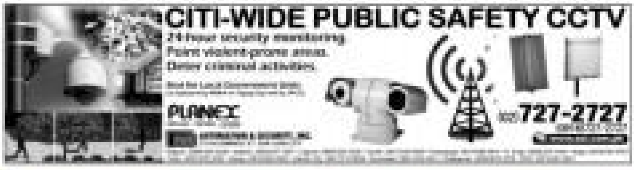
GSIS seen to net ₱50B in '08

With inflation seen to ease ...

Peso gains further

Shares close flat

DA gives organic farming a boost









Holiday spirit

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica



Holiday feeling

Workaholic

Tradition

Listed firms' 9-mo profit down 19.8% to ₱162.8B



LIM

Agata seen producing 10,000 tons of nickel yearly

By Amy R. Remo

ICTV, NextMobile ink partnership deal

By Riza T. Olchondra

Philippine Stock Exchange

RP still looks good to investors despite higher budget gap, Recto says

European firms seek flexible labor laws

ECCP hunts for ways to cope with crisis

Transparency and the DA budget

COMMENTARY

BUSINESS Friday

IN THIS ISSUE







Survival 101 for SMEs in 2009

By Chupoy Medina
Inquirer.net



TAKE time to review, reinvent business to prepare for growth.

Pan-Asian food channel hits the sweet spot

> "It brings a nice feeling to see people's faces light up because of something ... delicious they see on TV"





Ayala takes new look at marketing

Piracy: Beyond fake DVDs



PIRATED DVDs GALORE

Giant malls a big help to RP



By Roger Pe
Contributor

WHEN SM CITY North Edsa's expanded annex merged with the existing one, the world's third biggest mall was born. The gates of the 423,000-square meter behemoth officially opened last Dec. 12, thus becoming the 4th Philippine mall in the World's Top 12 Biggest Mall list. The first two belongs to China, the 4th, 7th and 11th belong to the Philippines.

Survival 101 ...

From page B2-1

Strengthen ...

From page B5-4

BUSINESS Friday

Strengthen brands amid weak economy

by Karen V. Du Bois
Contributor

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, 2009 IS NOT going to be an easy year for many businesses.

Based on the recent World Economic Outlook 2008 report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), advanced economies led by the United States and Germany will grow by less than one percent next year, while global GDP growth is pegged at a very modest 3 percent.

Developing Asia, including China and India, and the Asean-5 that includes the Philippines, are expected to fare much better with a growth of 7.7 and 4.9 percent, respectively.

The Philippines, compared to its neighbors in developing Asia, has the slowest projected economic growth rate at 3.8 percent.

But, compared to the developed countries, it is still a good number.

Weak-hearted businessmen will get depressed by this news.

Still a growth

But those with vision and a strong brand will look at the data with far greater optimism and hope.

Asia does face an economic slowdown, but there is growth.

Asia is, in fact, in a much better financial position to face the backlash of an economic crisis emanating from advanced economies.

However, because Asia seems to be the last man standing in these economically depressed times, there is a good chance that local business and brands will face even greater competition with the entry of foreign brands.

The challenge then is for local brands to get stronger in the face of a more competitive landscape.

So, check your brand's health before it's too late. Here are five ways to help you strengthen your brand.

1. Check your brand's awareness levels.

Your brand may have been around for the last 20, 30 or even 40 years and so far, you have been happy with the income it brings to your table. But if the brand has reached 50 years using extensively modern marketing efforts, then maybe it has not yet reached its full potential. It's time to find out objectively through market research whether your brand truly enjoys the awareness levels you think it does.

2. Have a brand story to tell.

It makes a big difference if your target market remembers you in a more significant, substantive way. This way, you are assured of being top of mind when its product, service or even a personality category is discussed. But rem-

STRENGTHEN/B2-3

BPI, Philhealth Ink Agreement for Hassle-free, Online Premium Payment

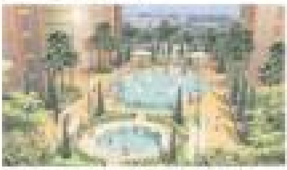


Delightful amenities abound in The Venice









MEGAWORLD

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



Katrina Goulbourn has a new baby

Off-the-rack christening gowns– a first in the Philippines

DESIGNER KATRINA Goulbourn has married tradition with contemporary demands by introducing her first collection of baptismal gowns dubbed as "Small, Small World."

Non-stop holiday fun at The Block

Looking to make your holidays more memorable? Drop by The Block and enjoy a wide selection of exciting Christmas activities that are sure to get you and your family in the holiday groove. Block off your calendars as some of the country's finest chorale groups and most exciting musical performers drop by to fill your hearts with Christmas cheer.



PRETTY BOX. Baroxg-inspired christening gown in ivory organza with pom-poms, ruffles and embroidery detail on the skirt



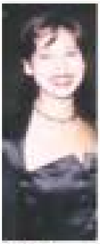
MELLOW YELLOW. Filipiniana-inspired lemon yellow gown in ivory organza with taffeta bodice and mid-box panels and skirt with ruffled hem



BUDDING TAIPAN. Emerald-green Chinese-inspired christening gown in silk taffeta with contrast orange and lime borders

PHOTOS BY [illegible]

Katrina Goulbourn has a new baby



KATRINA Goulbourn

From page C1

the country. (In the '70s and '80s, Malu Veloso designed baptismal gowns that were popular in the high-end market.)

The venture is an extension of Goulbourn's bridal gown line for Silk Cocoon, the family-owned business that specializes in made-to-order bridal gowns, formal dresses and barongs made of exquisite fabrics.

"I noticed that both here and abroad, christening gowns have one particular and romantic look, which is lovely but leaves little variety," says Goulbourn. "I have clients and friends who were looking for something different for their babies and were excited to have color and design that were unconventional but still elegant."

Even before she recognized the need for today's parents to express themselves through their kids, Goulbourn had already attended to several of her "brides," who came back to her a year or two later to have their babies' baptismal gowns made.

"Most of these people, including their friends, couldn't find anything on the market that they liked."

Sitting in front of the sewing machine and making their babies' gowns like they used to in the old days was out of the question. Today's harried parents (and grandparents) have little time to spare.

Apart from the Silk Cocoon shop in Makati, the designer's baptismal gowns are available off-the-rack at the children's wear section of Rustan's Makati and Alabang.

Distinct styles

In keeping with her training as couture designer, Goulbourn made sure no two pieces are alike as she combined such materials as piña silk, brocade, organza, taffeta with intricate trimmings such as lace, ribbons and embroidery.

After years of being limited to white and ivory, the market can now choose from various colors and distinct styles that are far from ordinary. That doesn't mean, however, that Goulbourn has turned her back on traditional designs and neutral hues.

For her debut collection, Goulbourn was inspired by the country's mixed heritage. Apart from Filipino touches, the gowns have Chinese and Spanish influences.

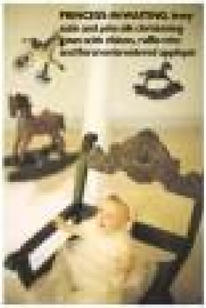
"My line offers a range of traditional and unconventional options for babies," she says. "Overall, I have been able to bring new elements into my designs so they still distinctly represent my point of view."

Being married and faced with the prospect of having kids of her own have made this latest venture all the more personal to her.

"Inspiration came quickly once I let my imagination go," says Goulbourn.



YO FOLIAM EMPEROR. Chinese-inspired silk brocade gown in imperial yellow with coral embroidered border detail and matching bonnet



PRINCESS IN WAITING. Ivory [illegible]



[illegible]

"Sources range from exploring childhood memories, fairy tales and history, to having dear friends with babies themselves."

And thanks to her years of experience as a designer for Silk Cocoon, she was able to maximize the use of the company's famous hand-woven silk.

Tapping the company's embroiderers, she executed her ideas and produced exclusive designs and appliqué work. Goulbourn went as far as dyeing the smallest piece of fabric to get the color she wanted.

Support

Such was her passion for the new line that she was also involved in its production and packaging. Her mom, the famous designer Jeannie Goulbourn, totally understood the creative process and gave her full support.

Her mom's advice, says Goulbourn, proved invaluable as Katrina explored uncharted territory in their factory.

"Believe it or not, it's actually just as, if not more, time-consuming to make small christening gowns as it is women's dresses," she shares. "With so many different patterns and details to work on in one garment, it takes quite a while to sew a small sleeve, a tiny collar and even little booties."

She now appreciates and understands why specialty infant's wear can be more expensive than adult's clothes despite the little yardage of fabric.

Surprisingly, with a price range of P10,000 to P18,000, Goulbourn's baptismal creations are in demand. She also accepts custom-made orders.

Who's spending a few thousands on your child's christening? After all, such a once-in-a-lifetime event (which no longer applies to a good number of marriages these days), deserves something unique and special.

ICONIC SHOE DESIGNS







Two-tone, wine color, mannish shape—choose your trend

FRESH OFF VIA VENETO'S LUXURY shelves is a string of iconic shoes taking a subtler take on a trend. All-black or two-tone, there are pointed-toe, laced-up pumps that could be toned down for the office but dramatic enough to be worn at night.

Sure to catch an eye or two are the black patent leather, peep-toe pumps with buckled ankle strap.

If you want to go beyond the basic black, wine colors are the hues du jour. Sure to be a refreshing sight for the fashion-forward are the mid-heel, buttoned-up chic heels in patent snake and suede—an exquisite play of material and texture.

Climbing its way to women's wardrobes are lines and shapes that tend to blur gender lines. The mannish silhouettes draw inspiration from superbly engineered sports cars.

In a knock-off-infested market, Via Veneto remains committed to fine Filipino craftsmanship using genuine Italian leather.

Via Veneto stores are at Greenbelt 3 and Glorietta 3 in Makati, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong and Trinoma in Quezon City. A new store will open in Glorietta 5 soon, signaling the rebirth of a brand.

Liposuction price rolled back

Bulakeña makes her mark in jewelry design



Abi Manlapaz

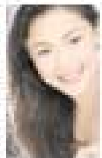
Accessories come in Roman numerals

CARTIER multi card, euro and coin wallet (Roman Numerals Pasha design)





Go from 'morena' to 'mestiza'



JODI Sta. Maria-Lacson

Salon owner named honorary UK officer

LIFESTYLE



TOTE made of woven recycled paper

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING

Alternative chic

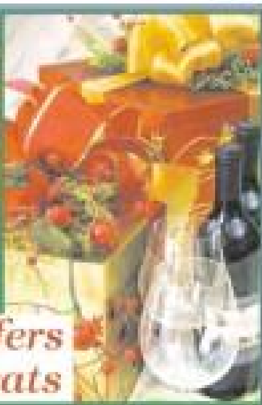
BE PART OF A GROWING number of alternative gift givers this Christmas by giving a gift that gives back.



MESSENGER bag made of reused tarp



Latitude Offers Holiday Treats



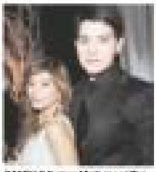









UST concert tells gloomy hotshots: 'Christmas finally here!'



WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Photo by Alex Van Hagen using TRL Photo Solutions



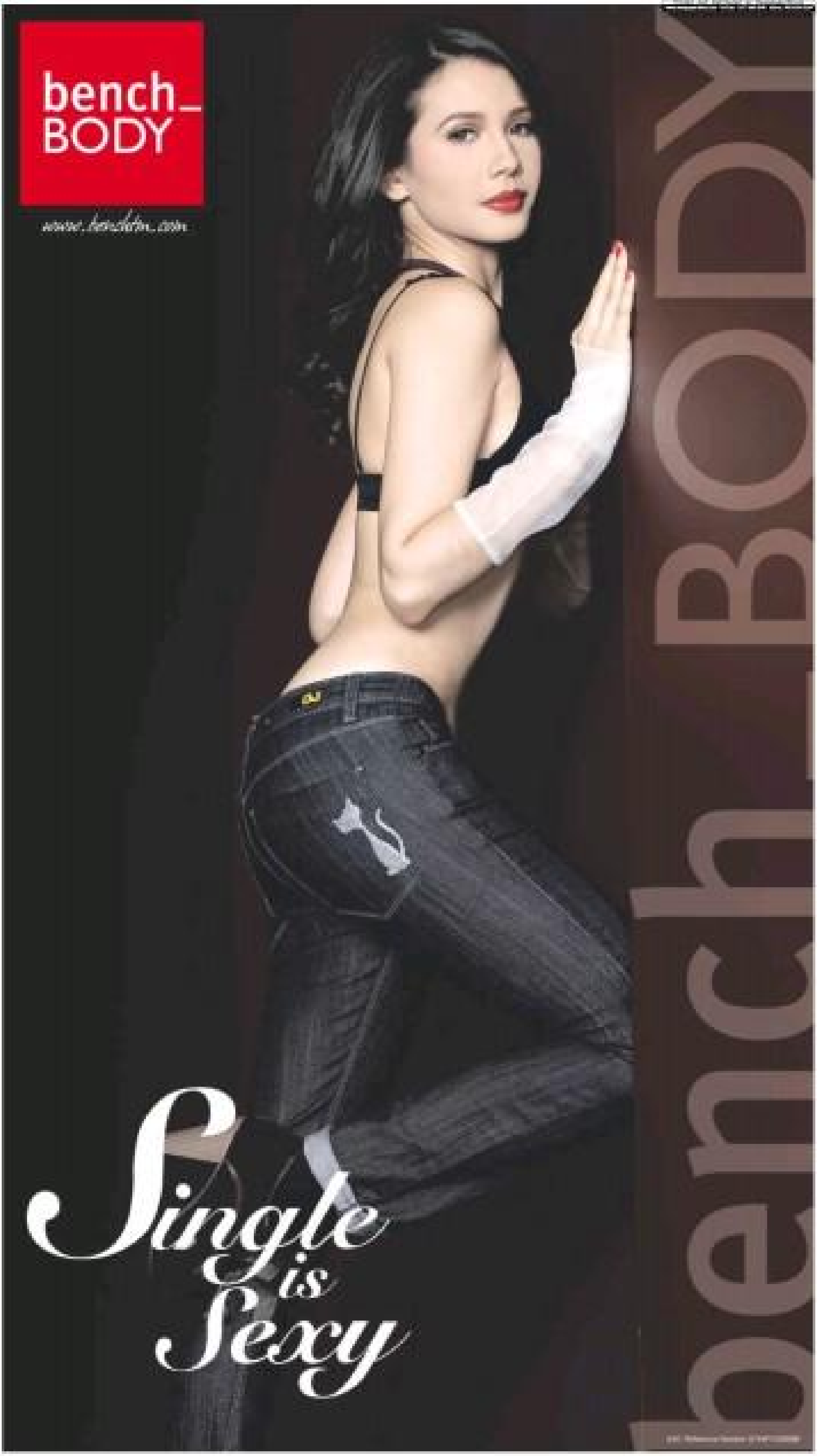











bench_
BODY
www.benchtm.com
bench_BODY
Single
is
Sexy



GOINGS ON

UE holds Christmas extravaganza

New Sun shop

New Year's eve show



HOT WHEELS ROAD TOUR

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



Gift ideas for less than P999



What makes an int'l hair salon last

Franck Provost bares formula—from color technique to values formation

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

IT WAS A HOT SUMMER in Paris in 1997. Ms. Pacita "Baby" Cruz and Ms. Luisa "Ising" Madrigal-Vasquez were scouring the avenues in search of franchise operation.



Pampered

Transparent

Pay it forward


FRANCK Provost (seated), chairman of Franck Provost Group, with Marc Aubin, president


AT THE COLOR Bar, Alfred José Cruz, Laurent Hébert, (seated) Patricia Cruz-Bautista and Baby Cruz



Gift ideas for less than P999

When the going gets tough, the tough gets creative

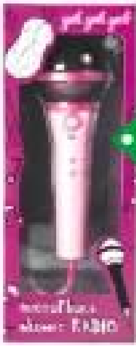
By Jessi Eppaman

GIVEN THE HARD times, what we need is a little bit of creativity this season of gift-giving. It's not an easy task to find the perfect present for our loved ones, but with these cool finds you will surely bring smiles to their faces and relief to your pockets.

Little sis' obsessions



SPARKLY ... nail file from Debenhams



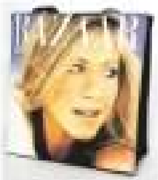
Shower radio from Debenhams, P795



PORTABLE mobile phone charger from Marks & Spencer, [illegible]



SOCK in a bag from Marks & Spencer, [illegible] each



MAGAZINE PRINT bag from Tickles, [illegible]



DIAMANTE handbag multi-tool from Debenhams, [illegible]



STATEMENT pillows from Tickles, [illegible] each

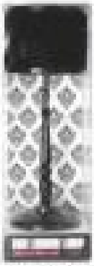


COLORFUL handbag umbrellas from Zara, [illegible]

Unisex gifts



HOLOGRAM ... from Make Room, [illegible]



USB desk lamp from Debenhams, [illegible]



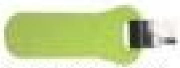
SURVIVAL in a bottle from Make Room, [illegible]



WATERPROOF wallet/case from Rustan's, [illegible] each



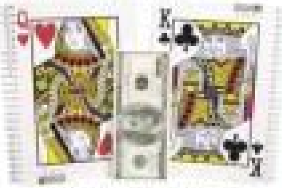
[illegible]



BOTTLE carrier from Rustan's, [illegible]



EYEWEAR holder from Rustan's, [illegible] (sunglasses not included)

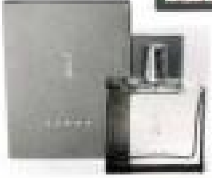


CARDS notebooks, [illegible] each and dollar bill notepad from Tickles, [illegible]

Brother's got a checklist



Photo frame from Debenhams, P795



PERFUME from Zara, [illegible]



CUTE boxers from Zara, [illegible]

Gift ideas for less than P999

From page E

Make your mama proud





PRINTED scarves from Debenhams, P[illegible]



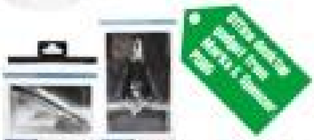
ROCK-SICLE ice mold from Make Room, P[illegible]

Dad's toolbox



INTERCHANGEABLE screw driver from Marks & Spencer, P[illegible]





LED book light, P[illegible], and multi-tool with led light from Debenhams, P[illegible]

Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors: Jenni Epperson, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE Fashion

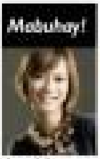
Tuxedo dress: Timeless, yet so now



ZARA tuxedo dress

You needn't look like a man (or a she-penguin) wearing the classic black-and-white ensemble

CALL IT THE JAMES Bond Effect.

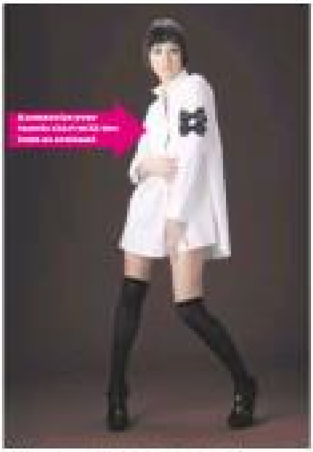


Jenni J. Epperson

[illegible]



Tuxedo dress: timeless, yet so now



ZARA tuxedo top and black platforms; bowties stylist's own

From page F1

high-waisted pleated trousers.

[illegible]

E-mail the author at [illegible]





[illegible] tuxedo dress, Zara black platforms; bowties stylist's own



[illegible] tuxedo dress, Zara black platforms; bowties and knee-high stockings, stylist's own

[illegible] tuxedo tube dress, Zara black platforms; bowties stylist's own

Stocking stuffers

'Tis the season to be jolly with color-coded Christmas treats

By [illegible]

Boy-next-door blue



RAY-BAN Colorful Wayfarers



HUGO Boss Pure



CONVERSE Chuck Taylors

Luxe black



SAMSUNG Innov8



GAP cashmere skinny scarf



SONY Handycam HDR-TG1

Pink passion



SONY Cyber-shot DSC-T700



GIVENCHY Very Irresistible Gift Set



SWATCH Pink collection

Stocking stuffers

Go green!



SKULLCANDY Low-rider headphones

IPOD Nano

BANANA Republic candle

HAVAIANAS rubber slippers

This season's look—sleek, spare, modern

Go ahead, edit and pare down

Apples' Pickings



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

[illegible]



SO LONG. [illegible]



LACE TO THE FINISH. [illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty



Save dough —d.i.y. makeup

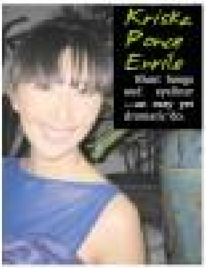
But before that, know first which products work best on you

Monique Sison-Enrile

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto



Kriska Ponce Enrile



Gina Mok

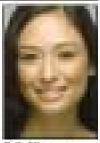


Booty for the beauties

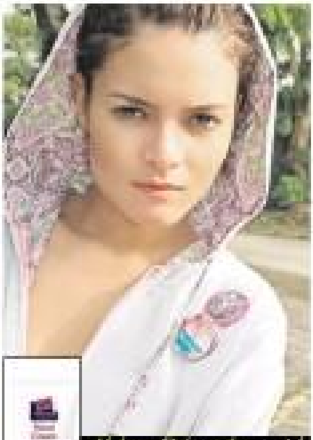
Get impressive gift ideas from these exceptional women

IF GUYS OUT THERE STILL don't have presents for the special ladies in their lives (girlfriend/wife, mother or best friend), here's a tip: beauty products!

Get impressive gift ideas from these exceptional beauties, as they tell us exactly what they want to find under their Christmas trees this year.



Kelly Misa, Tricks of the trade



Helena Belmonte, model

All I want this Christmas is a good hand cream and lip moisturizer. My skin tends to dry out a lot, and I can't overlook my hands and lips, either.



Amina Aranaz, bag designer

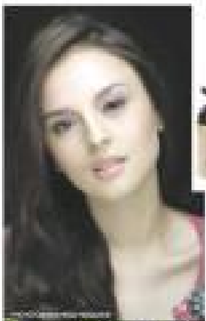
I would love to receive the Bare Escentuals Mineral Makeup line. I absolutely swear by it. I especially love the Radiance line of powders, which gives me a glow. It's available locally at SoHo Retail Lab (33 Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City or at www.bareescentuals.com). Plus, to pamper myself, I would also want to receive treatments from Facial Care Center (for my skin) and Marie France (for my post-pregnancy body). All these would make it a "beauty-filled" Christmas for me!



Kara Pendon, TV host

I wouldn't mind getting Benefit Cosmetics Lipscription and Laura Mercier Tinted Moisturizer. I'll be spending the holidays with Steve [Javier] in Canada, so I'd love for it to be a beautiful white Christmas instead of a dry one. The moisturizer is great because it contains SPF 20 and goes well with my foundation. The Lipscription exfoliates my lips as well as moisturizes them. Purrfect for Christmas.







Georgina Wilson, model

The one beauty product I would love to receive is the Olay Total Effects Cream. I got it for free since I'm a brand endorser, but everyone steals it from me! So it would be nice to receive more for Christmas.





Nicole Hernandez, model

I would love to have another pot of Creme De La Mer. It took me a year to find the perfect moisturizer for winter in New York! Of course, the whole set of La Mer products wouldn't hurt as well.

Mikaela Martinez, model



I would like to receive Shu Uemura's Cleansing Oil, because it's something I never [illegible]. It's a must [illegible] make-up removal.







Bubbles Paraiso, actress

I wouldn't mind receiving any of my favorite perfumes this Christmas—Daisy by Marc Jacobs, Incanto Charm by Ferragamo, Chanel No. 5, [illegible] by Escada. I simply love spritzing perfume every time I go out of the house and before I step out of my car. It's a beauty product that I always use, so I always run out of it.

Georgia del Rosario, model

A product I can't get enough of and would love to receive this Christmas is [illegible]. It really is the best sunblock for your face. As I get older, I try to protect myself from the sun as much as possible. This product allows me to go out and not worry because I know my face is protected.









HEALTHY Options pills

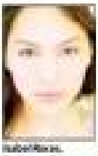


TRADITIONAL Medicinals for digestion



Have a healthy Christmas

Remember, what you eat is what your skin gets





ANGEL Jacob

Skincare

Sleep and digestion

Star choices



VANNA Garcia

Confidence-boosters at a fair price

MAKEOVER 911



Kimmy Salas



[illegible]

Japanese palette

[illegible]

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty



Obama's choice

'First US president in a long time who has a great body'



THE NEW US PRESIdent will take the oath of office on Jan. 20 in a suit and topcoat—perhaps of all-black cashmere—by American tailored clothing brand Hart Schaffner Marx.

The same company will also make his outfit for the inaugural festivities, a 330-percent wool tuxedo with a one-button, satin notch lapel jacket and single-pleat trousers with a grosgrain accent.

The Illinois company is also noted as Barack Obama's choice for his daily power suits.

Obama has been described as the "first [US] president in a very long time that has a great body for clothing" thus, even after his sartorial pick has been made public, top tailors and luxury houses are pitching in with their ideas on what he should wear to the inauguration.

Women's Wear Daily reports designers see the president-elect in "updated yet classic" styles. A couple suggested Obama, with his toned physique, could get away with a leaner and modern silhouette.

Obama is no stranger to fashion. He has graced the covers of men's mags such as Men's Vogue, GQ, Esquire.

A NIGHTTIME LOOK for Obama by Salvatore Ferragamo



A DAY look by Tommy Hilfiger



SUGGESTED styles for day (right) and evening by Ermenegildo Zegna



BRIAN Atwood, creative director of Bally International, and Marco Franchini, CEO of Bally International, with models

'Musical' fashion

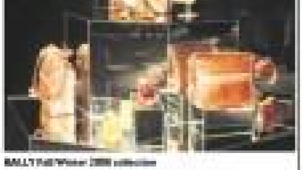
BALLY'S FALL/WINTER 2008 collection was presented recently at the ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong.

The event was attended by Marco Franchini, CEO of Bally International, and Brian Atwood, creative director of Bally International. This was Atwood's first show to present for Bally in Asia since his appointment to the brand in 2007.

The collection, according to Atwood, is inspired by music: "Ideas of rock, grunge, a lot of jazz funk combined with the memory of a treasured vintage purchase." Details are key and a mixture of textures and artisan techniques work together to create an eclectic, sensual look that heralds the arrival of a new easy luxury. Although the collection has an ethnic influence, with the combination of a rich variety of textures in earthy tones, it is at the same time very modern and urban.

In order to encapsulate the cosmopolitan image of the collection, the backdrop and decoration of the presentation was in the style of Studio 54, with black velvet, mirrors and dance podiums to show off the complete pieces.

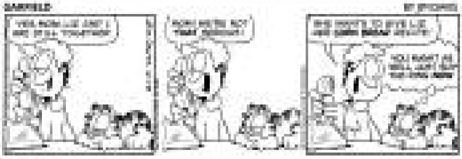
In the Philippines, Bally is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is located at Greenbelt 3, Rustan's Makati, The Power Plant Mall, and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



BALLY'S Fall/Winter 2008 collection



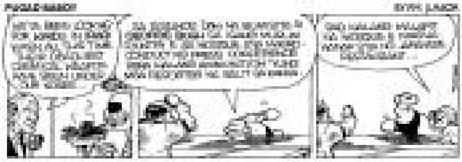
GARFIELD



A. LIPIN



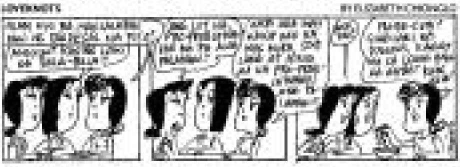
PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY



LOVEKNOTS



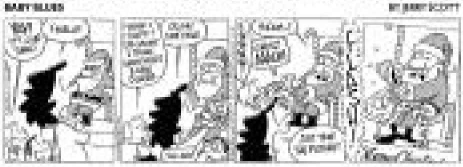
JAMES BOND

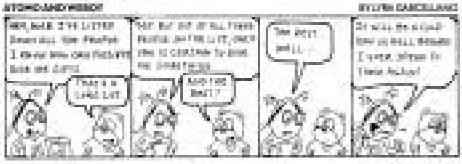


DIVINE COMEDY



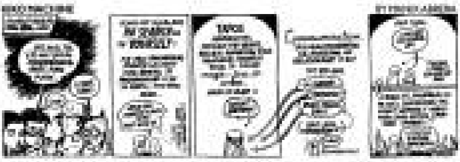
BABY BLUES



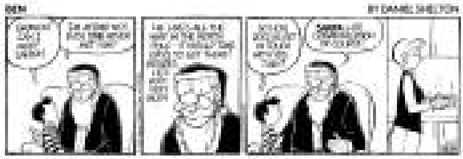


TULDOK

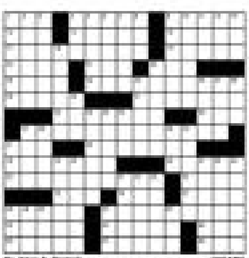




BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

7				9				4
			2		4			
		5		3		8		
	4						2	
5		9		8		6		7
	3						9	
		2		7		9		
			8		3			
6				4				2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU



WHO coaches the coach when he indulges in a game of golf? With Xperia X1, coach Chot Reyes instructs his caddie to video him in action, so he can analyze his strokes after the game.

NEVER, a coach in every sense of the word, likes that the Xperia X1 recognizes his writing—from his diagrams of basketball moves to a profound quote he heard on the radio.





DESIGNER Joey Tupaspoc sings praises for the Xperia X1's easy Internet access and how he can sketch an idea in the middle of a long trip.



TUPASPOC appreciates the Xperia X1's music player, since the industrial designer noted for his modern, minimalist style is both fiercely passionate and private about his love for beautiful melodies.

Meet the multitasking, multifaceted people

Sony Ericsson's multimedia mobile phone Xperia X1 aids the busy life

TODAY'S TYPICAL CELL PHONE JUGGLES the roles of music player, video arcade, watch, diary and calculator. But if you're the multitasking, multifaceted type, the kind who prioritizes your passion as well as your profession, then you need a phone that's designed to do the same.

Sony Ericsson's new Xperia X1 addresses the needs of the multitasker. Its sleek design inspired by the creative work of Finnish designer Kaj Franck, the multimedia mobile phone has the finger touch navigation that allows many functions—"standard" Internet browsing, text and e-mail messaging and computer tasks such as reviewing and editing contents using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs.

But the Xperia X1 isn't just all work. With its three-inch WVGA (800 x 480 pixels) high resolution touch screen and wide aspect ratio and built-in speakers, the phone encourages endless hours of crisp-looking, clear sounding movie watching from the latest releases on DVD to your own personal videos.

Vincent "Chot" Reyes, who is a coach in every sense of the word (besides coaching basketball's Talk 'N Text team, he is also a certified life coach to top executives and CEOs), said that the Xperia X1 recognizes his writing—from his diagrams of basketball moves to a profound quote he heard on the radio.

Who coaches the coach when he indulges in a game of golf? Apparently he does with a little help from his Xperia X1, coach Chot instructs his caddie to video him in action, so he can analyze his strokes after the game.

"Don't forget my memory card," reminds the tiny-like techie. "I have to download my golf videos!"

Techie mayor

Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga is a techie as well—and not only because he plans to outfit the progressive area of responsibility with its own wireless broadband, a customized ID for residents and electric public utility vehicles by Christmas.

An avowed music lover, Tinga enjoys "creating soundtracks for whatever projects we're planning." And these projects range from raising homes, schools, and daycare centers for the underprivileged, to launching sports competitions in stairways, dancing and his favorite sport, basketball.

What does the techie think of the Xperia X1?

"The form function for a device of this type is incredible. This is probably the first PDA phone I've had that doesn't make me look like a geek," he says with a chuckle.

"My wife always laughs at the phones I use, but this one she's trying to get from me. That's a first!"

When you ride a horse as often as Jay Aldeguer does, even a computer laptop is a liability. Thank goodness for the Xperia X1, a tool which allows this entrepreneur to attend to his three thriving businesses: the unique travel-and-tourism venture Islands Banca Cruises, the design company Islands Design, and the hugely successful retail outfit Island Souvenirs.

"The active desktop is the most attractive function of this device," says Jay, who also collects and restores vintage cars. So is the camera, which this hobbyist, known for striking shots of landscapes and architecture, uses a lot. "Complete" is his one-word description of the phone.

Joey Tupaspoc will most likely appreciate the Xperia X1's music player, since the designer noted for his modern, minimalist style, is both fiercely passionate and private about his love for beautiful melodies. For now, he'd rather sing praises to Xperia X1's easy Internet access and how he can sketch an idea in the middle of a long trip.

"It's a complete machine that you can pocket," he says. "It also has an arc slider screen that enables a viewing angle while typing on the keyboard."

As head of operations and human resources of Raja Laurel's couture, House of Laurel, and the kids' line Nighty, Venice Laurel-Hermano lives a busy life. She also has own ventures—Marsy Training Center and a special needs school called Kids First Discovery Space. Did we mention that she's a wedding singer, too?

Thankfully, the Xperia X1 makes her "crazy yet super-exciting" life a lot easier. She uses the phone to shoot photos of clothes and design ideas, listen to music for fashion shows, check e-mails from local and international clients, update herself on sales reports and fashion blogs, and recharge by watching videos of her kids.

"I find it really sleek and well-made," she says. "In my hands, it feels like money well-spent."



JUGGLING her roles as head of operations and human resources, Venice Laurel-Hermano runs a costume. Thankfully, the Xperia X1 can keep up.





WHAT does Freddie Tinga think of the Xperia X1? "The form function for a device of this type is incredible. This is probably the first PDA phone I've had that doesn't make me look like a geek."

AN AVOWED music lover, Mayor Freddie Tinga enjoys "creating soundtracks for whatever projects we're planning." Projects range from raising homes, schools, and daycare centers for the underprivileged, to launching sports competitions in stairways, dancing and his favorite sport, basketball. He can easily connect the Xperia X1 directly to his computer and transfer these tracks.



THE XPERIA X1 makes Laurel's "crazy yet super-exciting" life a lot easier. She uses the phone to shoot photos of clothes and design ideas, listen to music for fashion shows.



ENTREPRENEUR Aldeguer is also known for his striking shots of landscapes and architecture. This photography hobbyist says: "The active desktop is the most attractive function of the Sony Ericsson Xperia X1."



"COMPLETE" is Jay Aldeguer's one-word description of the Sony Ericsson Xperia X1.





Jet-setting luggage and accessories

[illegible]



LifeStyle Fashion & Beauty

Buy cheap—without looking like you did

Look Magazine gives the lowdown on which beauty products to buy and which you can afford to scrimp on—while still looking great

By Melanie J. Cuevo
Contributor

(This article came out in the November-December issue of Look magazine.)

YOU SEE THE SIGNS IN THE news day after day, and the slumping economy shows no signs of improving. So whether you're the low-maintenance kind of girl who's out the door in 10 minutes, or the type who spends an hour perfecting her hair and make-up, chances are you don't want to spend most of your hard-earned money on beauty products.

There must be a million creams, potions and salves crowding store shelves, all promising smoother skin, shinier hair or longer-lasting color. But which one do you choose? Should you believe the hype and spend thousands on "cult" beauty creams, or spend less at the drugstore? While it's true that a high price tag may mean rare and costly ingredients, some drugstore and mass-market products can give the expensive ones a run for their money. In fact, many makeup artists and hairstylists swear by drugstore finds. So yes, it's possible to keep your looks and save your hard-earned money. Here's how to balance the budget.

Skin care, face and eye creams

Everyday skin care products, such as eye creams, night creams and moisturizers, are worth investing in. Reputable skin care companies spend millions on research and years developing and testing skin care products. Certain ingredients such as



LOOK Magazine November-December issue, a Philippine Daily Inquirer glossy, is now in the stands.

essential oils, shea butter, hyaluronic acid (a moisturizing ingredient) and retinols, are known to be expensive, and therefore, justify the higher price tag. Be careful, though, of buying products for mature women if you haven't even hit 30—they can cause sudden acne breakouts.

Dermatological treatments

Skin peels and treatments such as IPL and microdermabrasion can be expensive, but if you have chronic skin problems like acne, the most expensive makeup won't make a difference.

Makeup foundation

According to makeup artists, foundation is crucial because it has to match your skin tone exactly. You'll find a wider range of formulas, colors and textures to choose from at a department store, from full to sheer coverage, and different finishes from matte to light-reflecting. Try the makeup on your face, near the jawline, and go outside to see how it looks in natural light. If the color blends into the skin, then it's the right match.

Concealer

A good concealer should be creamy,



POND'S age miracle cream and Maybelline Volum' Express Waterproof Mascara

smooth and have a yellowish undertone, which is the best tone for lightening dark circles under your eyes. It's best to go to a department or freestanding store for concealer because you'll want to test it between your fingers and on your face—you wouldn't want that cakey raccoon-eye look.

Powder

Buy powder where you can test it. High-end formulas (such as those from Laura Mercier, Make Up For Ever and T. Le Clerc) tend to be more sheer and look less mask-like on the face. A good powder also helps make foundation and concealer last longer, and absorbs excess oil without looking too cakey.

Makeup brushes, eyelash curlers and tweezers

The tools you use make a big difference when it comes to applying makeup—the color just blends seamlessly. The right makeup brushes, such as those in pony, sable and goat hair are soft to the touch (except for foundation and concealer brushes, which come in synthetic 'taklon') and don't scratch the skin. And with the right upkeep, they'll last for years. Eyelash curlers (such as those from Shu Uemura or Shiseido), on the other hand, can really open up the eyes,

BUY CHEAP B



Buy cheap—without looking like you did



Makeup Brush

Hairbrushes and hair styling tools

Haircut and hair color

Deep conditioners and styling products



Eye and lip liners

Eye shadow, bronzer, blush and lipstick

Mascara

Shampoo

Cleansers and body products

Nail polish

Automatic CENTRE
The Appliance Authority

Benito Lim honored as 'Father of Appliance Retailing'

On the occasion of the 12th Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Centers of the Year award, officials of the Philippine Retail Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) bestowed its highest honor to Benito Lim.

Acknowledged as the "Father of Appliance Retailing," Lim is credited for starting appliance retailing in the Philippines 60 years ago and for growing it into a major industry. He has also helped uplift Filipino lives with the influx of modern consumer electronics and household appliances.

"Benito Lim is truly an inspiration to all of us. A stalwart whose creative thinking has changed the way we do retail. He gave Filipino retail heart and soul," says Jorge T. Mendiola, PRA president and SVP-Operations of SM Shoemart. Mendiola presented the award to the 86-year-old Lim, along with Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and Manuel Siggaoan, vice chairman, PRA, at the awards ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel last Dec. 9.


BENITO Lim


Shown are (from left): Mr. Marc C. Chua (Chairman, Philippine Retailers Association) Hon. Peter Favila (Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry) Mr. Benito Lim (Chairman, Automatic Appliances, Inc.) Mr. Manuel M. Siggaoan (Vice Chairman – Finance/ Treasurer, Philippine Retailers Association

The PRA is considered the voice and pulse of the retail industry. The world-class organization works hand-in-hand with the DTI in handing out such awards to outstanding retailers and shopping centers annually.

Automatic Centre is the most admired appliance store in the country with 60 years of serving millions of satisfied customers.

Lim's foray into retailing has also given rise to other retail brands such as Blims Fine Furniture and JEXED Home and Office Center. Combined with Automatic Centre, these retail outlets have a strong 40-branch network in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Pampanga.

The secret to Lim's success!

"I am foremost a salesman. I spent 50 years in the store. If there is one thing I wouldn't miss is to talk to customers. That's the only way you get to feel the pulse of customers," Lim shares. "There is only one formula for success-hardwork. Never give up no matter what the circumstance is."

Amidst these accomplishments, the chairman of the board of Automatic Appliances is modest. "Having honor and good name is more important than any success you achieve," says Lim. He added that a clear conscience more important than clear profits.


Shown are (from left): Mr. Santos Lim (President, Automatic Appliances, Inc.) Mr. John K. Tan, (President, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.) Mr. Benito Lim (Chairman, Automatic Appliances, Inc.) Hon. Peter Favila (Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry)


Standing Mr. Benjamin K. Calonzo (Federation President, Federation of Electrical and Electronic Suppliers and Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc.) Seated Mr. Benito Lim (Chairman, Automatic Appliances, Inc.)

Buy cheap—without looking . . .

[illegible]



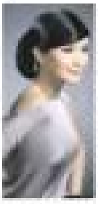
GUERLAIN Super Aqua-Night Moisturizer

[illegible]

Good buys

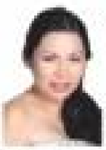
[illegible]

Perfect hairstyle for the confident woman



[illegible]





Pinay: Presents from the Heart

Khristine B. Gabriel

[illegible]



[illegible]



Fashion designer shows how to turn an old flat into a clean, contemporary sanctuary



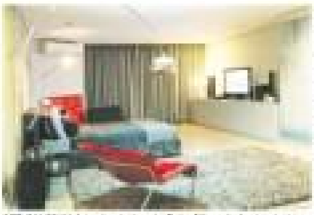
MODERN MAN.



WHITE CHRISTMAS.

Randy's home for Christmas

RANDY ORTIZ WAS MEANT to be a housewife, or so the top designer believes. And his sanctuary in the heart of Makati proves he could be right.



RED ON GRAY. A scarlet chair and a Dinky Pilar painting break the monochromatic color scheme of the master bedroom.

Piece de resistance



ECLECTIC CHINA. "Multipurpose" plates and bowls in marbled red and black goblets make up Ortiz's Christmas dinner setup.



FRILLS-FREE. Apart from BenCab sketches on one wall, Ortiz's office is devoid of trimmings.

Masculine



EASY ACCESS.



ART GALLERY.

Pilipino touches





BUILDING WALLS.

TechnoMarine
GENĒVE

Celebrating a Woman's Many Moods this Christmas



CRUISE GEM : [illegible]



Cruise Britto : TechnoMarine joins creative forces with modern day pop culture phenomenon Romero Britto in the Cruise Britto collection. Series includes 4 watches.

Diamond Cruise Chrono : TechnoMarine brings back its first watch ever created with a 2008 series. [illegible]

A woman is a masterpiece of great intricacy. Crafted with painstaking detail and astuteness, she boggles and amazes the minds of everyone around her. She is a beautiful paradox that has attracted and aroused the interest of mankind over time. She has an uncanny ability to bring the most contrasting elements and characteristics together into a beautiful harmony, giving birth to a creation that is most worthy to be called 'marvelous.' Her own self, for one, was born out of this harmony. She is kind but firm. She is casual yet sophisticated, wise yet provocative, gentle but tough. These contrasts, more often than not, manifest in her moods. It is for this reason that she is often labeled as 'complicated' or 'confusing', when in fact one only has to go beyond the surface to appreciate the way a woman's mind really works.

Like a woman's many moods, the [illegible] of TechnoMarine epitomizes the depths of the complex female mind. This complexity makes one such an intimidating force to one's opposite, one's partner, or one's competition. A sensational blend of contrasts on its own, TechnoMarine has established itself as a pioneer in combining unique elements that suit each other flawlessly to produce timepieces that are definitely one of a kind. [illegible] - faceted like the woman that it perfectly complements, TechnoMarine continues to [illegible] traditional watch-making techniques with its timepieces that cater to every occasion, every emotion, and every mood.

Sporty yet sophisticated, tough yet formal, [illegible] yet versatile. The woman and the watch.

TechnoMarine's Neo Neo Classic Collection : [illegible]



Gift Suggestions for the Man in Her Life

ROYAL MARINE F1 : [illegible]





Diamond Cruise Chrono Magnum

Neo Bar Magnum : [illegible]

UFS COLLECTION : [illegible]



COCKTAIL RING in 18K White Gold with 2.87 carats Yellow Sapphires, 1.30 carats Aquamarine and 0.72 carats Round Brilliant Diamonds. Cocktail Ring in 18K Yellow and White Gold with Orange and White Diamonds, totaling 1.94 carats. French clip earrings in 18K Yellow and White Gold with 1.14 carats round brilliant orange diamonds, .58 carats round brilliant white diamonds.



COCKTAIL ring in 18K white gold with 2.[illegible] carats round brilliant diamonds and [illegible] carats champagne marquise diamonds. "A Fiori" earrings made by hand, inspired by Monarch Butterflies, made of 18K yellow and white gold with [illegible] carats diamonds [illegible].

Rafael Jewellery: This is craftsmanship

FOR MORE than a decade now, Rafael Jewellery has been giving women what they love most—high quality stones and diamonds, highly-developed craftsmanship (it's made by hand), and designs that are classic yet with contemporary twist. In short, it's a jewelry line that yields surprises, and what woman doesn't want to be surprised.

In its latest collection, there's the "A Fiori" line—butterflies made of rare champagne diamonds crafted in such a way that the wings move. A set comes with rotini earrings: a mix of modern design (the ring) and the classic (rotini earrings). It was handmade by Rafael's head designer Pascual Valdes.

Or there's Rafael's signature creation—the Queen's Heart, the heart-shaped diamond made by combining three rare princess and two half-moon diamonds.

These pieces showcase Filipino craftsmanship in jewelry.

Rafael Jewellery is located at the 2nd level of Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Mall. T: 636-3398 to 99.



BUG BROOCH in 18K white gold with black pearl, rubies, pink sapphires and diamonds.
Earring in 18K white gold with yellow sapphires, rubies and diamonds.



"A Fiori" cocktail ring made of 18K yellow and white gold with 1.05 carats diamonds. Floral French clip earrings made of 18K white gold with 4.86 carats diamonds.





"QUEEN'S HEART" dangling earring in 18K white gold with rare princess-cut diamond and 2 half-moon-cut diamonds totaling 3.00 carats. This is Rafael's signature line.



Engagement rings and wedding bands from the "Iconic" collection. One especially designed to be detachable, worn in 3 ways. Made of 18K white and yellow gold with round brilliant natural cut diamonds.

My Diamonds: Cool, hip romance

Detachable engagement and wedding rings



Ring in 14K rose gold with .33 carats diamonds. French clip earring in 18K white and yellow gold with 1.83 carats diamonds. Pendant with chain in 14K white and rose gold with .22 carats diamonds.



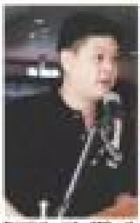
A MODERN pair of wedding bands also from the "Iconic" collection. Made of 14K white and yellow gold with round brilliant natural cut diamonds.

My Diamonds is located at the ground level of Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Upper Ground level of Greenbelt Mall, 2nd Level of Glorietta 3, 2nd Level of Entertainment Mall of Mall of Asia and 2nd Level Padre Faura Wing of Robinson's Place Manila. Customer Relations Service at: +63917-845-2562

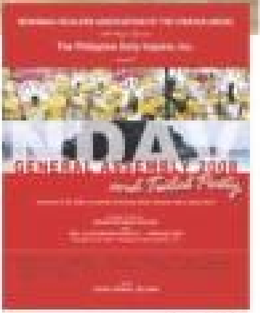


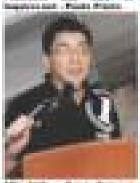
MODERN YET CLASSIC BRIDAL SETS.
"QUINTESSENCE" tennis bracelet in 18K white gold with [illegible] carats diamonds.
"Spinning Hearts" cocktail ring in 18K white gold with .26 carats diamonds.
Dangling earrings in 18K white gold with .69 carats diamonds.











News and Magazine Dealers

Moving as One

towards Professionalism and Excellence in the Newspaper and Magazine Industry



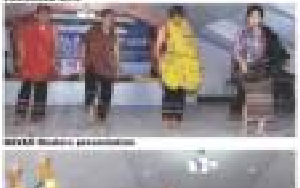






















LIVING Stars

Editor Emmie G. Velarde



Beth Tamayo takes the holidays seriously Homebody /K4

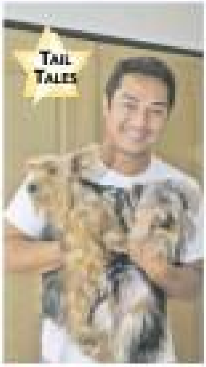
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA

Wish List



"I WISH THAT, as artists, we could all be good role models for people to emulate. Let's work together harmoniously, making song [illegible]. Let's forgive each other. Let's entertain, but not just do it for the money or the ratings. Let's put in good values in our shows, in our performances." *Marinel Cruz*

Tail Tales



ARIEL RIVERA

JESSIE, 3, AND LOGAN, WHO TURNS 1 IN February, are Yorkshire Terriers. Jessie is Logan's mom. They're very low maintenance. We feed them twice a day and brush their teeth once a day. Napakabait at malambing si Logan. He's also very close because Jessie sleeps in our bedroom. There are a lot of benefits to having a pet. First, the kids learn to be gentle to animals. Second, pets are stress busters. Your body releases happy hormones when you're around pets. *Marinel R. Cruz*




THE couple, for eight years, moved into the QC house five years ago. Made by snow globes, a music player, a Christmas carol. Santa figure is a Greenbelt find.



Cheery wonderland

From page

"I don't care whether it's from an exclusive store or a flea market, for as long as it's pretty," Beth says, while admitting that she stopped herself from buying an eight-foot-tall [illegible] statue in Rustan's Makati.

Do-it-yourself

Earlier, for the QC house's interiors, she collaborated with cousin [illegible] and friend [illegible]. "We saved a lot by doing the interior designs ourselves," Beth points out.

But when it came to the finishings, furniture and paintings, there was no way she would scrimp.

"Most of our furniture are from SM Megamall, proudly Philippine-made. I got some rattan chairs from Union Square, and the sofa is from Habitat," she says.

When they first moved in here five years ago, Beth and her husband, Chinese businessman Johnny Wong, agreed on a modern, simple yet elegant Mediterranean look.

"With lots of wood," she enthuses. "Wooden pieces feel warm and cozy."

The miniature sailboat on the tree is a gift from a neighbor. "My husband considers sailboats lucky," Beth says. "He got all the Chinese décor and lucky charms from Stanley Market in Hong Kong."

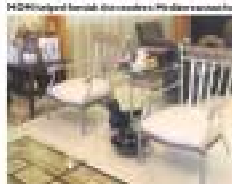
The living room center table is a rare find, she notes. "Only three of its kind were created."



COPPER-color cabinet trimmings on the tree that Beth found in a [illegible] store.



HIGH-backed [illegible] Mediterranean [illegible]



A PAIR of [illegible] chairs from [illegible] Asia.



THE [illegible]



ANGEL choir figures from Shangri-La Mall



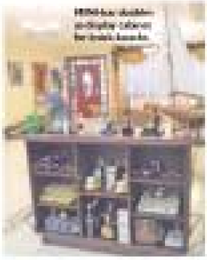


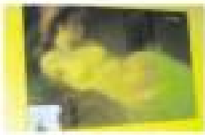
Understandably, the kitchen is the most-favored-open area because, like best buddy Judy Ann Santos, Beth is a [illegible] Arts graduate.

"When we found this house, it was [illegible] percent finished," she recounts. "I asked the architect and to work on the kitchen [illegible] because I wanted to [illegible] from [illegible] in SM Megamall."

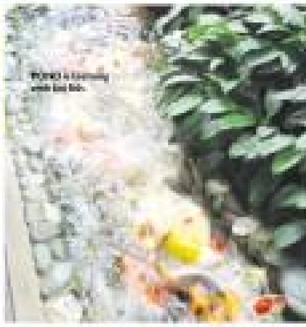
These days, she spends most of her [illegible] hours in the kitchen, whipping up [illegible] for [illegible], 12, and [illegible], 9, who are visiting from [illegible].

E-mail: [illegible]@hotmail.com

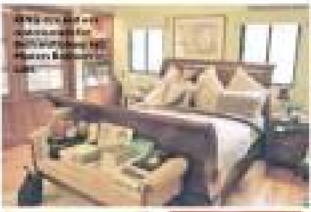


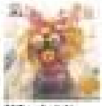


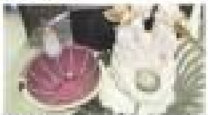
NUDE by Greg Baldono in the dining room.

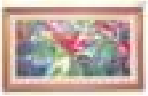


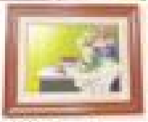












Cheery wonderland



DANCING Santa Claus stands guard at the door.

THE FESTIVE SPIRIT starts at the front door.

[illegible]



ATTIC also serves as play/activity room for the kids.



ENTERTAINMENT center is the kids' favorite.



STAIRCASE is dressed with holly, cold bead and Christmas balls.

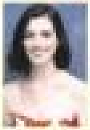


DINING table centerpiece hews closely to the copper-and-salmon theme.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

INSIDE



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Two A's and a B for festival films

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE CINEMA EVALUATION Board (CEB) gave both Jose Javier Reyes' "Magkaibigan" and Mark Meily's "Baler" an 'A' grade.

The two drama entries are entries in this month's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), which opens on Christmas Day.

Another entry, the Wenn V. Deramas comedy "Ang Tanging Ina N'yong Lahat," got a "B."

"Magkaibigan," about a friendship tested by the travails of cancer, was commended for "highly disciplined" direction and "well-structured" screenplay—both by Reyes.

Lead actors Christopher de Leon as a dying man and Jinggoy Estrada as his best friend, along with co-stars Dawn Zulueta and Maricel Laxa as their spouses, were similarly praised.

"I'm ecstatic," Reyes said. "This film is a heartfelt tribute to Rudy Fernandez from Jinggoy and to Khryss Adalia from me."

Fernandez and Adalia died of cancer this year.

"Baler," a romantic epic set during the Philippine revolution against Spain, was hailed by the CEB as "a praiseworthy effort."

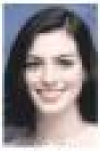
Direction was described as "capable" and the cinematography (by Lee Meily) as "beautiful."

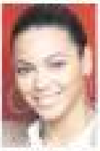
Meily told Inquirer: "I hope the 'A' grade will inspire other filmmakers to take risks and make more movies that highlight Filipino culture."

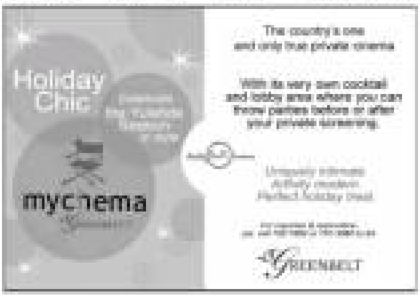
"Ang Tanging Ina N'yong Lahat" is a sequel to the box-office hit "Ang Tanging Ina" and follows the sudden rise to power of a single mom (Ai Ai de las Alas) as the country's president.

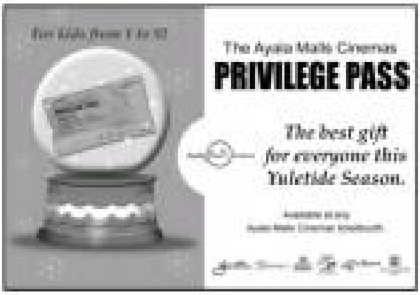
E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com

H'wood A-listers' ...







Miley Cyrus

Metro Manila Film Festival 2008



Desperadas 2



At the Cinemas

At the Malls





Ramiele grounded, yet soars





SHOW TIME

Mitalucha at Eastwood

Madz, PMCIE at the CCP





H'wood A-listers' holiday plans

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Brad Pitt

Beyonce Knowles

Brad Pitt plans to bring the kids to their countries of origin

Anne Hathaway

Daniel Craig

Reese Witherspoon